

The draft Programmatic environmental impact report and statement (EIR/EIS) will contain all relevant technical information prepared to date for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The draft EIR/EIS will also include an analysis of the twelve program alternatives remaining in consideration after the screening process this fall. (Five alternatives or variations were screened out. The EIR/EIS will include a summary of this process.)

The draft EIR/EIS will include preferred policy decisions recommended by the CALFED agencies. Those would include:

- a reiteration of support for the solution principles - that any solution has to be implementable, durable, equitable, affordable, must reduce conflicts in the system, and cannot create significant redirected impacts;

- an affirmation of the concept of nonseverability - that a solution must meet all of the program objectives in order to be acceptable (water quality, ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability and system integrity). In addition, nonseverability means that stakeholders who receive benefits must also meet obligations of the program; stakeholders cannot elect to participate in some portions of the program, but not others, it's a package deal;

- a commitment to water use efficiency as a necessary part of the program;

- a commitment to preserving the common pool;

- a recognition that agricultural land retirement will be used only for water quality, flood or levee improvements, or as part of the ecosystem restoration program;

- a recommendation that no new on-stream storage facilities be considered further;

- a recommendation that a preferred alternative must include increased water supply (a bigger pie);

- a recognition that storing additional water during times of abundance for release in times of drought is an essential part of any preferred alternative;

- a recognition that additional off-stream storage and conjunctive use should be part of any preferred alternative in order to reduce conflicts in times of drought;

- etc.

Based upon the technical and environmental information contained in the draft EIR/EIS plus the above policy statements, the

EIR/EIS should identify the short list of alternatives vying for the preferred alternative. For example, if the CALFED agencies will select a preferred alternative from one of IDT's three optimized alternatives, we should declare that. Because, that means that a significant number of the 12 alternatives are no longer considered viable. They will still be evaluated in the draft, but are no longer in the running to become the preferred alternative.

